

one of the largest school districts in the State of Texas. During his tenure as Superintendent, United ISD earned an "A" rating by the Texas Education Agency two years in a row. In addition, and more importantly, Mr. Santos earned the respect and trust of his colleagues and the many people he helped during his tenure.

Mr. Santos's success as superintendent undoubtedly comes from the experience he gained serving in various roles for United ISD, including: Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, Director for Human Resources, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. The skills he acquired through these different positions enabled him to have the tools he needed for when he eventually became superintendent in 2005.

Over the course of his many years in public education, Mr. Santos attained numerous awards and recognitions. He is the recipient of the "Unsung Heroes Award" by the Laredo Next Generation Rotary Club; Future of Texas Award; Laredo Diploma Plus Foundation Leadership Award; Imaginarium "Image Award"; Latin American International Hall of Fame; Border Olympics Honorary Director; Martin High School Tiger Legend; LULAC Council No. 12 Tejano Achiever; Gateway to Mexico All-Sports Clinic Hall of Honor; American Cancer Society Relay for Life Honorary Chairman and March of Dimes Honorary Chairman.

I want to congratulate Mr. Santos on his service to the United Independent School District. His compassion, hard work, and leadership has molded an essential institution for the community, driving local economic and academic prosperity in Laredo. As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate Mr. Santos and all the educators who dedicate their lives to preparing the next generation for becoming valuable members of society. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career and service of Superintendent Roberto J. Santos.

ROScoe D. CUNNINGHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to remember Roscoe D. Cunningham—a remarkably accomplished man who made an unforgettable impact in Lawrence County, Illinois in his 97 years.

Roscoe was born on September 15, 1923 to Roscoe and Bessie Cooper Cunningham. He graduated from Sumner High School in 1941, a place which instilled his love of learning and ability to quote poetry. He, then, attended the University of Illinois, but put a halt on his degree to serve in World War II European Operations. He proudly served in the United States Army, Rainbow Division 4th Operations as a forward Observer with the artillery division where he was involved with the aeronautical observation of the dropping of bombs on enemy locations. In 1946, Roscoe was honor-

ably discharged from active duty with the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Returning to U of I, Roscoe earned a JD from the School of Law and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1948. He practiced law in Lawrence County for over 72 years. Roscoe proved to be a strong community leader, dedicating his life to bettering his community in Lawrence County. He was considered one of the county's most vocal advocates and, in 2018, was awarded the Key to the City by Lawrenceville. He also participated extensively in state and national politics, serving as the States Attorney for four terms, the Illinois State Legislature for four terms, and Delegate to the Republican National Convention for three sessions. As an Illinois State Representative for the 54th District, Roscoe also proved to be a vocal advocate for his district. It is noted that he spoke eloquently from the House Floor and he could capture a room's attention. Roscoe was also involved in more than 20 election campaigns throughout the years and he enjoyed meeting with and helping constituents.

Roscoe married Kathryn Suzanne Cunningham on May 1, 1954. They shared 64 years of marriage and raised five children. Roscoe was frequently seen riding bikes with his children and/or grandchildren. At 87, he continued to bike from Sumner to Olney in support of the Special Olympics.

Striving to better his community, Roscoe prioritized community service. He was especially proud of establishing and advancing the Cunningham's Golden Age Club No. 1. His favorite Bible verse was Luke 9:62 which reads, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." These words inspired Roscoe to re-establish the hometown newspaper in his later years. The sections he created have led to The Sumner Press's legacy as the longest running, locally owned newspaper in Southern Illinois. Roscoe was an active member at First Christian Church for 66 years. He recognized the importance of Sunday School and spent many years teaching Sunday School to participate in the education of young students in their faith. He was a member of many community organizations, including the Lawrence County Shrine Club, Lawrence County Republicans, and a lifetime member of the V.F.W. Post 2244, to name but a few among his expansive list of which he was a member.

Madam Speaker, I take this time to recognize a true agent of change in Lawrence County. Lawrence County will surely miss him, but they are left with his incomparable legacy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OUR
HOMES OUR VOTES ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Our Homes Our Votes Act along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mary Gay Scanlon. This bill will help close the voter turnout gap between rich and poor by making it easier for eligible tenants in federally subsidized housing to register to vote.

People have fought and died for the right to vote in this country, but many still face barriers

to voting. Tenants in federally subsidized housing already have their residence and identity verified by public agencies, and this bill will allow them to register to vote as they sign their lease without duplicating information or finding additional paperwork to fill out.

The best way to confront this country's history of voter suppression is to remove barriers to voting that exist today. Eligible voters in working class districts like mine vote at lower rates than wealthier voters, and that discrepancy undermines our democracy. This bill is a step toward fixing that, and I urge this body to advance it.

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE
ACCESS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation that enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support in the Congress.

This bill ends the five-month waiting period for people with ALS to access Social Security Disability. For some in the country, a five-month wait would not be a great burden, but for those with ALS, which is fatal, many die waiting, never receiving the benefits they earned by paying into Social Security.

ALS is an aggressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of their muscle movement, their employment, and their lives in a brief time following diagnosis. By ending the harmful waiting period, this bill will allow Americans who face an ALS diagnosis to immediately receive the Social Security benefits they've earned and deserve.

I salute my friend and colleague, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE for authoring this important legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill and for the President to immediately sign it into law.

TRIBUTE TO UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CHARLES HALL
AND STEVE STOLTE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Union County Commissioners Charles Hall and Steve Stolte, who will retire at the end of 2020 after many years of outstanding service to the people of Union County.

A lifelong resident of Leesburg Township, Charles Hall has been a county commissioner since 2005 and currently serves as Vice President of the Board. He studied business at Northern Illinois University and Butler University, later joining his brother in machinery sales in Marysville. Charles and his wife of more than fifty years, Peggy, are the parents of three, the grandparents of nine, and the great-grandparents of two. They are members of Richwood United Methodist Church.

Steve Stolte, President of the Board, was appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2011 and has served as a commissioner ever since. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Steve was Union County Engineer for nearly a quarter-century and Marysville City Engineer prior to that. He was named Ohio County Engineer of the Year in 1996 and received the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award in 2019.

Madam Speaker, the people of Union County will gather for an open house on December 17 to celebrate Charles's and Steve's retirement. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am proud to join in the accolades to them for their devotion to public service. We wish them and their families every success as they move to a new chapter in their lives.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6395,
WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Chairman ADAM SMITH, for his consistent efforts to include key House provisions in this year's NDAA conference report. I was very pleased that the provisions which the Congressional Black Caucus led that calls for the renaming of Confederate military bases made it into the final bill. There is a dangerous and hurtful legacy of white supremacy in this country, and there is no place for the memorialization of the historical figures that perpetuated it, especially on our military bases. I'm pleased that the CBC and House Democrats successfully kept this important provision in the final text of the bill.

However, the FY 21 NDAA continues our legacy of wasteful military spending and investing in war rather than peace. This legislation provides \$732 billion in discretionary spending, nearly the exact same number as last year's number, which was the largest number ever authorized.

Especially as we fight back a catastrophic pandemic and public health crisis, Congress should not be rewarding the Pentagon with a massive spending increase. I cannot support a bill that funds the Pentagon at a level far beyond what is necessary for our national defense, turning our backs on the serious human need we face today.

For these reasons, I am unable to support the NDAA conference report and will vote no.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHAWN
FARRITOR

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of Shawn Farritor. Shawn was born in June 1967 with a birth defect called transposition of the great arteries, meaning the two main arteries leaving his heart were reversed. Shawn overcame these challenges to become an attorney and published author, and it inspired him to spend his life helping others. Shawn received a double lung and heart transplant in December 2019 and spent a year fighting to recover before leaving us in September 2020. He was born and raised in Ravenna, Nebraska, and spent his professional career in Grand Island and Hastings.

Spending his professional career providing legal support to those who needed it most, Shawn made a big effort to learn the language and culture of those he served and was known as someone who "would actually listen." He was a literacy council volunteer, United Way professional partner, and served on the Friendship House board of directors as Vice President. He was also an active supporter of survivors of the transposition procedure he underwent. For his contributions to communities in the Third District, Shawn is an honorable mention recipient of the 2020 Innovation and Adaptation Recognition.

Shawn is missed by all especially his wife, stepson, and family. He was beloved by all for his big heart and passion for helping others. We are grateful for Shawn and proud of everything he has done for many Nebraskans.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSAL CITY
POLICE CHIEF GARY SPEER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Universal City Police Chief Gary Speer. Chief Speer has retired after 40 years in law enforcement and 36 years of service with the Universal City Police Department.

Chief Speer is an individual who consistently displayed the utmost commitment to his community. He began his career in law enforcement in 1981 as a reserve officer for Bexar County Precinct 3. He eventually served in a few different departments before joining the Universal City Police Department as a patrolman in 1984. Over time he steadily rose through the ranks. He achieved the rank of Sergeant in 1989, Lieutenant in 1997, Assistant Chief in 2001, and soon earned the position of Chief in 2007. During this time, he was also honored with several awards including Police Officer of the Year by the Lions Club and Police Officer of the Year for the State of Texas by the American Legion.

I have worked with Chief Speer over the years and witnessed first-hand the essential work he has done to keep his community safe. He cared deeply about the people he served

and consistently showed what it means to put the well-being of others first. The dedication that he has shown to us all should be a constant reminder of how we should be in our daily lives. This devotion to others is also consistent with the history of his family. Chief Speer's Grandfather, father, and brother all served their communities as members of law enforcement.

In addition to the hard work and dedication he showed as a member of the law enforcement community, he is also an active member of his community. He is a member of Shriners International, the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and its Scramble Committee, the Texas Police Association, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association. But most importantly, he is a devoted father and grandfather.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the service of heroes like Chief Speer and all the individuals who risk their lives each day to keep us safe. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career and service of Chief Speer.

HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus and an original co-sponsor, I rise in support of the bipartisan S. 461, the "HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act" (HBCU PARTNERS Act), which will strengthen partnerships between federal agencies and the country's more than 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The HBCU PARTNERS Act requires federal agencies with relevant grants and programs to undertake annual planning and coordinate their efforts to support and expand HBCU participation in those programs.

The bill strengthens the rigor and transparency requirements of existing law by requiring that agencies track their progress toward past goals and share their plans with Congress.

In addition, it codifies the White House Board of Advisors on HBCUs, ensuring an ongoing avenue for the institutions' priorities and policy concerns to be raised.

As a strong proponent of the preservation of our nation's HBCU's and MSI's, I support this bill because our students deserve to receive an outstanding education and have access to equal resources, regardless of the institution they choose to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that one of the greatest HBCUs in the country, Texas Southern University, is located in my congressional district.

Texas Southern University has a rich history with nine academic units, 1,000 dedicated staff members, and over 9,200 esteemed students.